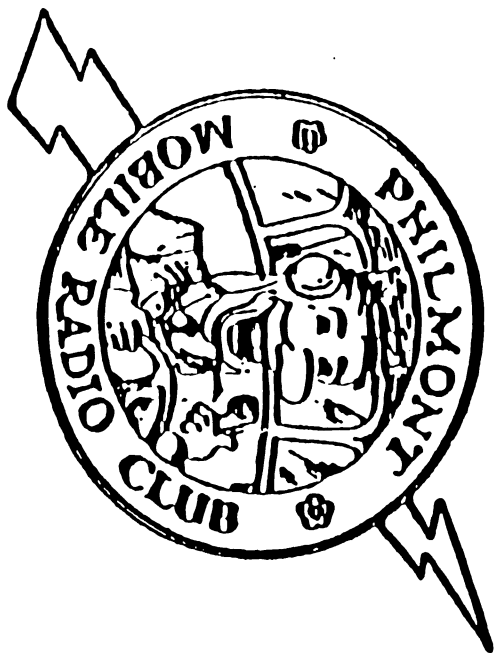


FIRST CLASS MAIL



A Philmont Mobile Radio
Club Publication
125 Keeley Avenue
New Britain, PA 18901

the blurb



Happy Holidays
TO ALL OF PHILMONT



is published monthly by and for the members of The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC. Our purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. Copying and quoting is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs; requests should be sent to the Editor. BLURB subscriptions are available to non-members for \$6.50 addressed to the Treasurer. The club meets at 8 PM on the first non-holiday Monday of every month at The Franklin Institute, 21st Street and the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia. Use the rear entrance. ALL VISITORS ARE WELCOME!
Amateur Radio License Examinations - Every meeting night at 6:30 PM.

CLUB INFORMATION

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 88, Abington, PA 19001
24 Hour Information Number at W3TKQ: (215) 448-1139

STATIONS

W3QV - 147.03 Mhz. Repeater - 8200 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA - Trustee W3888
W3RQZ - 1176 Old York Road, Abington, PA - Trustee W3VVS
W3TKQ - The Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, PA - Trustee W3PWG
W3TKQ Operators: W3AAL, Fred; N3ABS, John; K3TEF, Frank; K3PJC, Jack; W3PWG, Rollie

OFFICERS

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1062 Quarry Hall Road, Fairview Village, Norristown, PA 19403
VICE PRESIDENT: W3CMM, Bill Mescanti, 405 E. Rively Ave., Aldan, PA 19018
SECRETARY: N3EAY, Bob Ricker, P.O. Box 93, Zieglerville, PA 19492
TREASURER: K83IV, Ed Masarsky, 15 Poe Avenue, Wyncote, PA 19095

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W3888 (A); K3GMM (A); AK2I (87); W3IIM (A); W3RM (87); W3VVS (88); W3ZPP (88)

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Swap 'n Shop: W3888

DEADLINE: To be assured of publication in the current month, all copy MUST be in the hands of the Editor at the Bored of Directors' Meeting.

PHIL-MONT's Net Schedule

SUNDAY	Mon	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	Thu	Fri	Sat
09:30 147.030 MHz FM		20:00 147.030 MHz FM	20:00 147.030 MHz FM			
10:00 28.400 MHz SSB		Personalized CW	Swap Net			
10:20 3.993 MHz SSB		Practice Net				

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the receiving operator notified the Coast Guard and then stayed in contact with the stricken yacht until help arrived.

Several years ago there was a dramatic report in another yachting magazine about a boat built in an Asian port, and being sailed to the U.S. West Coast. It lost its mast in a Pacific typhoon. One of the crew members was a ham operator. By stringing a wire along the deck as an emergency antenna, contact was made with a ham in Alaska, who (via ham radio!) notified the Coast Guard and the families of crew members, and handled daily communications for them while they sailed along on a jury rig.

Become an amateur! take your SSB (and CW) transceiver aboard, and make friends all over the world, have fun, and always have reliable communications.

You can get information about ham radio by writing to the ARRL, Newington, CT, 06111.

John R. Knott (W1HLE), Iowa City, IA.

Yachting editor replies: We agree, amateur radio can be useful. But as Jesse Leaf points out in his article, it is wise to think of SSB and VHF - not ham - as the first line of emergency marine communications.

FROM THE REAR SEAT - - -

As we approach the end of '87, some review is in order. WB3KOJ has always come thru with the address labels and birthday greetings; W3IIM 'N, have never missed, either, in their very special way, using computers, modems, printers and printouts, also with the use of their special "seasonings." So much for kudos, and now for awards, yes, that's plural. The BLURB Committee have agreed that N3DHI gets top prize, 100% free membership for one year. W3SGR ran a very close second of a 90% free membership for one year. Congratulations, guys, but more especially, THANKS from the BLURB Committee.

Sam's OTHER CORNER

PROFESSOR BOHLANDER...
W3VVS WINS A FEW
'GOODIES' FOR HIS
KNOWING PRESIDENT
HARDING WAS A RADIO
ENTHUSIAST WITH THE
FIRST WHITE HOUSE RADIO.
PAUL AND HARDING WERE OLD BUDDIES...
SO I HAVE BEEN TOLD.

MANY THANKS TO PAUL FOR HIS 'FAN MAIL'



THE APPLE TREE AND I W3SGR

I believe the antenna is the most important part of a rig. It costs the least of the outfit and does the greatest amount of work for the ham.

Once on CW (I didn't have modulation at that time) way back then - while living in western Pennsylvania, I contacted a ham in Scotland. My rig was two 811s push-pull - 200 watts - the antenna was a dipole on the southeast side of a steep hill, (good for Zls). His signal was a good 599 (very strong). He gave me a 569+. He said he had 5 watts from two tubes, but the antenna was 5 wave lengths long over a lake.

Boy - did that burn me up! But, enough for the old days - let's get more modern - say after WW2.

Where I live our lot is not long enough for a 75 dipole - so I had to use 40 meters. The 40 meter dipole reached from the third floor back window to the far corner of the lot. It was fed with a 50 ohm coaxial line. (hot stuff then).

That elm tree in the corner used to lean on my 40 meter antenna - but my real itch was an apple tree closer to the house than the elm. This apple tree liked to reach out and eat my coaxial line. I had to fight those two trees.

My thought was to get rid of the apple tree first. The apples were very small - invested with wasps that seemed to make the apple rotten and wormy before they got ripe. On the ground they were a mess, but the XYL loved that tree - Don't ask my why.

However, the fellow across the street cut his apples back to the point that they died. Because of this he was permitted by the borough to remove them (one man on the tree commission got rid of his trees that way).

So (think I), let's prune the thing. This was okayed by the XYL - I told the tree man to prune it - really cut it back - he did.

That was the first step (we thought) - but it back fired - that was just what it needed. We got the biggest, most beautiful apples you ever saw. No bugs, no mess. Still I had that apple tree.

But, what the heck - if I couldn't win, I'd go along with it. I grafted other types of apples onto it and they worked out OK. Two years later an 18 inch snow uprooted that apple tree, so nature came to my aid.

The wood was wonderful in the fireplace at the shore. HI

HAM FAN

"Yachting" Magazine, 11/87
A Letter

In his August article, "A Way With Words," author Jesse Leaf gets carried away when he says, "And never, never depend on the amateur bands in case of emergency . . . The ham bands are interesting, fun and totally unreliable as emergency frequencies."

In point of fact, they may be the most reliable bands of all. If you can't raise the Coast Guard on your VHF or a marine SS8 channel, and have SS8 capabilities that include amateur frequencies, if all else fails, your best chance is to put out an emergency call on a ham band that is active. Some amateur will hear you and, one way or another, will notify the appropriate emergency authority.

Perhaps coincidentally, the August issue of "OST" (sic), the monthly magazine published by ARRL, (the American amateurs' society) reported a recent rescue operation, initiated via ham bands;

Continued on page 11

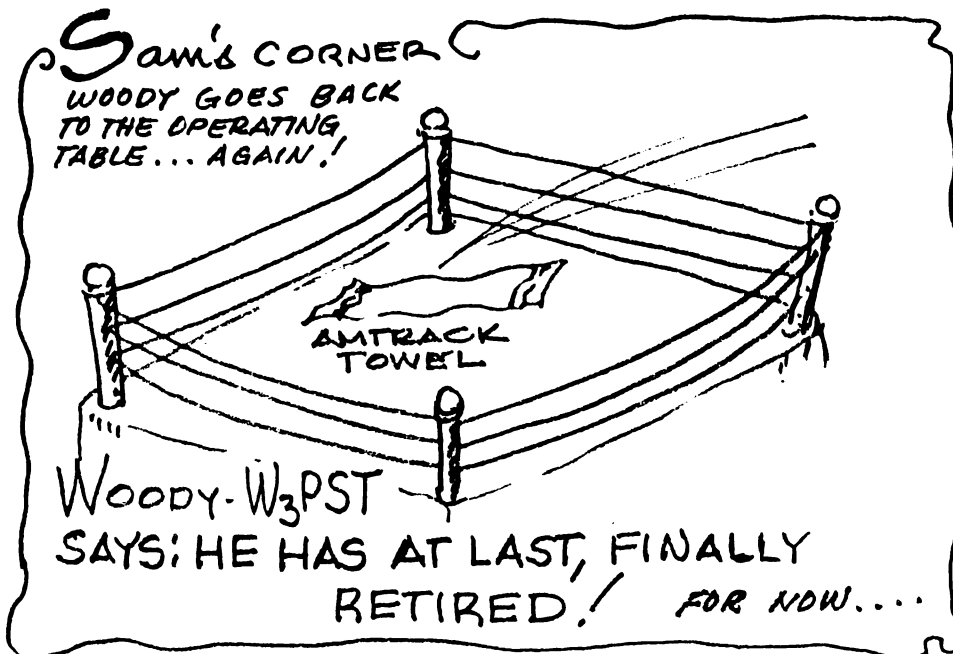
The PREZ SEZ

December is the time we traditionally look back upon what has been done and look forward to a new year and all that it promises. I have been fortunate to be selected to serve as President of Philmont for two years. As I thought back over this period, I realize that much was accomplished and much remains to be done. That which was accomplished was mainly through the efforts of the elected officers, the appointed committees and the dedicated core of members who are always there when you need them. To this group I express my most grateful appreciation for their help, advice, support, suggestions and criticism. That which was not accomplished can be no one else's fault but my own. I failed to motivate the bulk of the membership to become active in the affairs of the club.

The subject matter of the speakers at the general meetings has had about as broad a range of interest as possible. We had the opportunity to learn about how the YL network functions, the effects of new automobile insurance laws, how to setup and operate packet radio, the ins and outs of piloting boats on the Delaware River and the cause of the space shuttle disaster, to name just a few. We even had a dramatic film on lightning! The diversity of subjects and the high quality of speakers and films were through the efforts of the Vice Presidents, Ben W3LKI and Bill WB3CWM.

In the area of public service, Philmont participated in many events during this period. These included the NDMS drills, Pro Bicycle Championships, Philadelphia Half Marathon, Thanksgiving Day races, bike-a-thons, Paddlerama, distance runs, etc. Recently, the club participated in the ARRL Simulated Emergency Test weekend by staging a SEI for MOCOM. From scramble to operation on multiple bands in under two hours! This was primarily through the efforts of Rick N3DHI. However, considering the number of members in Philmont and the equipment available, the turnout of members at most, if not all the these occasions, was disappointing.

Continued on page 4



Other public service areas included the VE program, W3TKQ, individualized code practice, the swap net and the Sunday morning nets for general information and bulletins. The VE program is one of our most useful functions to amateur radio in general, and will change leadership from its founder Jake AK2I to Ramona KM3N. The code practice program, led by Dick W3RM, has a wide audience and helps feed the VE program. Swap Net is now operating under the hand of Bob N3EAL. W3TKQ, our station at the Franklin Institute will remain a permanent exhibit and continues to be improved both by Philmont and by its dedicated staff of operators. Our repeater, with TLC by Jim W3BBB, is the voice of Philmont and has just been upgraded to the most modern standards. Probably our most under-emphasized public service capability is MOCOM, with Rick N3DHI as its primary driving force. Its capability was aptly demonstrated during the SEI recently.

So much for the good news. The bad news is that all of these activities are accomplished by a small portion of membership, proving once again the 80/20 rule, i.e., 80% of the work is done by 20% of the people. I failed to motivate the remaining 80%, even by trying to get the whole family together for a social outing. It is even more frustrating to hear most, if not all, of the knocks against Philmont coming from the non-participants that we were trying to reach.

A new opportunity is before us. The slate of candidates for administering Philmont during 1988 is excellent and should pick up the ball where I dropped it. I am sure they will get the support of the few, but they need the support of the many. There is no valid excuse for avoiding all of the varied activities; there is something you can do no matter what limits your time or mobility. I urge you to do something for your club.

My very best wishes to the new officers, for I know that Philmont will be the better for their service.

Thank you for the opportunity of serving you.

Happy Holidays!

HAMMING IT UP

Ham Radio Hobbyists Use Online Forum as Communications Channel

Reprinted by permission of Online Today magazine, published by CompuServe Incorporated.

When the aircraft Voyager completed its historic nonstop around-the-world flight in December 1986, shortwave radio enthusiast Michael Schwartz listened in on communications between the pilots and Edwards Air Force Base. "The trick was to get the right frequencies," recalls Schwartz. "Then it suddenly occurred to me to try CompuServe's Hamnet Forum. I logged on and within minutes had all the frequencies reserved for the Voyager mission. I was able to hear the crew and mission control as the craft approached the coast of South America. You can imagine how exciting it was to 'participate' in this aviation event."

Hamnet, a forum dedicated to amateur radio and related subjects, "strives to reach all levels of amateur radio enthusiasts, from people who are starting out to those experimenting with advanced techniques," according to forum administrator Scott Loftness. Operational since 1981, Hamnet is one of CompuServe's oldest forums, but like ham radio, has greatly expanded its scope through the years.

"With advances in technology, we can not only link up with satellites but can use computers to enhance and improve communications," says Loftness. Hamnet can open a new world to both computer and ham radio users. "Because of liberalized FCC regulations, the novice (first-level) ham radio license now allows voice-to-voice communications. Before, only Morse code was permitted," says Loftness. Thus, even beginners can immediately enjoy full benefits of amateur radio communications.



APPLE BYTES...

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

02-DONALD GORDON - WB3KOJ
 05-LEATHA LACHMAN (XYL W3UQ)
 08-ALBERT B. ROWLAND - W3JIL
 09-R. LAFAYETTE BEAMON, JR. - W3BFM
 -JAMES J. BOCK - K3PHC
 10-ELSIE BARDSLEY (XYL K3OJA)
 11-SUSAN TITTERTON (XYL KB3RN)
 12-EDWARD TITTERTON - KB3RN
 13-RAMONA B. DABAGIAN - KM3N
 17-BETTY BADDORF (XYL W3FZO)
 21-CLINTON R. SPENCER, III - N3DHI
 26-FREDWOOD S. SHAW - W3ADV
 27-HARRY C. BAYNARD - K3GZJ
 -RACHEL KLABE (XYL WA2YDS)
 -CLINTON R. SPENCER, Jr. - W3BBB
 28-BETTY KING (XYL W3PXY)
 30-FRANK H. LEWIS -N3DGU
 31-RHEBA BOCK (XYL W3PHC)

TIME TO RENEW

W3IRS ... IT'S TIME TO FILL OUT A 610 THE FCC.
 (WILL SOME HELPFUL PHIL-MONTER TAKE CARE OF THIS FOR FRENCHY?)

HELP PHIL-MONT

ARE YOU PLANNING TO JOIN ARRL OR RENEW YOUR CURRENT MEMBERSHIP? HELP PHIL-MONT BY JOINING OR RENEWING THROUGH THE CLUB...CONTACT KB3IV FOR THE DETAILS.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN! WITH THIS BLURB YOU RECEIVED YOUR 1988 DUES INVOICE AND DIRECTORY INFORMATION SHEET, PLEASE CHECK YOUR INFO AND RETURN TO KB3IV WITH YOUR DUES...YOUR EARLY REPLY WILL SPEED THE PUBLISHING OF THE 1988 DIRECTORY.

....DE WB3KOJ

V.E TEST LOCATIONS

from EPA FEEDLINE

BRYN MAWR
 Bob Haase, W3SA
 (215) 293-1919

CENTER CITY
 Dec. 7, Jan. 4
 Jake Kovalchek, AK2I
 (215) 448-1139

COLMAR
 Stu Silverstein, K3UEI
 (215) 584-0775

LEVITTOWN
 Dave Heller, K3TX
 (215) 736-3333

WARMINSTER
 Tom Michaud, WA3TQJ
 (215) 343-3494

OFFICIAL ABSENTEE BALLOT

This is your Official Absentee Ballot for the Election of Officers to be held on December 7, 1987. This ballot must be in the hands of the Judge-of-Elections before the nominations are declared closed on election night.

PROCEDURE:

1. Make your selection below.
2. Seal BALLOT in an envelope.
3. Write your call on the OUTSIDE of the envelope.
4. Place inside another envelope and mail, or have delivered, to the Judge-of-Elections before the election begins on December 7th.

NOTE: If, after submitting your absentee ballot, you are able to attend the election, you may claim your unopened envelope prior to casting a regular ballot.

PRESIDENT	() N3EAY	()
VICE-PRESIDENT	() WB3CMM	() W3YLT
SECRETARY	() N2RM	()
TREASURER	() N3ALW	() KB3IV
DIRECTOR	() WA3AUN	() K3GBA
(Vote for two)	() KB3JW	() K3KUD

DELIVER TO THE JUDGE-OF-ELECTIONS
or mail in care of:

Richard Moll, W3RM
P.O. Box 88
Abington
Pennsylvania
19001

Hamnet helps point the way through the often confusing jungle of varied interests, through 'Hamnet Online' magazine. This database offers feature articles, news and newsletters, product information and reviews, education/tutorials, and a list of local and national contacts and clubs. For example, an entire section explains the basics of amateur radio and shortwave listening, including what "hams" (radio operators) do, how to obtain the various levels of licenses, and practical applications and technology. Areas of interest such as a communication with the AMSAT OSCAR 10 satellite in space; SWL international broadcasting; and long distance listening can be found here. Packet radio, computer-to-computer communication via amateur radio, is also covered extensively. "We have users from Canada, Germany, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Ireland," says Loftness. They can use specialized frequencies provided by the magazine and the forum to communicate anywhere. SWLs can monitor military broadcasts and ship-to-shore conversations, along with receiving confirmation cards from stations they've contacted. Users can also make contact with the Great Beyond. "Last fall, Japanese hams launched an amateur satellite," says Loftness. "They are putting up a bulletin board so we can have a radio link and upload messages when the satellite passes overhead."

Newsletters put various groups in touch with each other to allow for the dissemination of information. The member of one such group was instrumental in stopping "jammers" - radio operators who illegally interfere with and disrupt broadcasts.

Product reviews assess pros and cons of equipment and are particularly valuable, considering the technical nature of the application. A calendar for contests, events and FCC examinations is in the works; subscribers are directed to local ham clubs and classes in their area. A support group for handicapped hams (Handi-Ham) matches students with helpers, provides instruction and lends equipment. 'Hamnet Online' also introduces users to the American Radio Relay League. Open to anyone interested in amateur radio, this noncommercial association establishes networks for communication in the event of disasters and other emergencies, and strives to represent ham radio operators in legislative matters, among other things.

"The Hamnet Forum environment lends itself especially well to amateur radio," says Loftness. "Not only can users get the latest information of international and satellite broadcasting, but they can swap valuable information about experiments." One subscriber, for example, had difficulties in learning Morse Code by conventional methods. He used programs from the data libraries to complete his training and passed his novice test.

Data libraries also cover regulations, ham radio-related software and programming, "homebrewing" (building equipment from scratch), equipment exchange and files on specialized subjects. Of interest to SWL aficionados is Data Library 3 - the weekly updates by George Wood of Radio Sweden International in Stockholm.

In addition to being fascinating, the hobby can also help others. "Ham radio operators are invaluable in a disaster, providing a vital link to the outside world when all else has failed," says Loftness. For example, amateurs passed messages back and forth during the Mt. St. Helens and Mexican earthquake disasters. They can also supply "phone patches" to service people overseas for the cost of a local phone call.

With the five levels of courses offered, "you can put as much or as little into ham radio as you wish," says Loftness. But with the combination of computer and radio technology, you can practically "go" anywhere from your modem. To get started, type GO HAMNET.

NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS

NAME: John Clifton
HANDLE: John
CALL: KA3RRG
ADDRESS: 6146 Reedland St.
Phila., PA 19142
HOME PHONE: 215-729-5218
OCCUPATION: Janitor

NAME: Ted J. Lada
HANDLE: Ted
CALL: N3FTZ
ADDRESS: 917 Ayrdale Place
Phila., PA 19128
HOME PHONE: 215-487-3017
OCCUPATION: Data Communications
BUSINESS PHONE: 215-629-8318

TESTING W3SGR

A ham is a ham is a ham.

After shooting the bull with Don about the stock market, we signed off but listened.

Someone pushed the button and did the usual testing - namely blowing into the mike - puff - puff - naturally no call sign.

My remark to this was "Hey you (I named our kitten 'Hey-cat'), I could feel that blowing all the way over here. Your breath is terrible! Why don't you use a mouth wash before contaminating your mike?"

Side remark from Lydia (XYL) in next room, "That wasn't very nice to say to a person."

Come-back from Don: "Hi, I could even feel that over here".

Maybe we should give him a slip of paper for not giving his call, the way the State Police do. We could get in that rack-et. HI!

* UPDATE *

DEC 7 General Meeting:
ELECTIONS

Dec 16 Mid-Month at W3ZPP's

--- * ---

JAN 4 General Meeting Program:
THE V.E. PROGRAM. A
lively presentation by
Jake Kovalchek, AK2I.

--- * ---

CONTACT LENS ALERT
from Westlink Report
"Intermod"

Two recent incidents have uncovered an important safety hazard. The first was an electrical worker who threw an uncovered electrical switch into a closed position that produced a short spark. The second involved a welder who flipped open his protective face shield to better position a welding rod. The rod contacted the metal and also produced a spark. Nothing was unusual except that both men were wearing contact lenses.

On returning home they each removed their contact lenses and the cornea of the eye was removed along with the lens! The result was instant and total blindness in each man's effected eye.

Later investigation showed that, in both cases, the electric arc generated microwaves that dried up the fluid between the eye tissue and the contact lens, bonding the cornea to the lens. Unfortunately, the trauma was painless, so the individual never knows that an injury has occurred until he tries to remove the contact lenses.

When these incidents were reported the phenomenon was unknown to federal safety and health agencies. In the interim, don't wear contacts if you are subject to electrical sparking.

Submitted by: W3ZPP

1987

DECEMBER

1987

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 CODE PRACTICE NET (W3RM)	2 SWAP NET	3	4	5
6 2m NCS W3SRU 10m NCS Anyone 75m NCS W3PWG	7 GENERAL MEETING & LICENSE EXAMS (AK2I) <i>Pearl Harbor Day</i>	8 CODE PRACTICE NET (W3RM)	9 SWAP NET	10	11	12
13 2m NCS W3AWG 10m NCS Anyone 75m NCS W3AOA	14	15 CODE PRACTICE NET (W3RM)	16 SWAP NET DIRECTORS' MEETING at W3ZPP's <i>Happy Hanukah</i>	17 <i>Wright Brothers' Flight 1903</i>	18	19
20 2m NCS KB3IV 10m NCS Anyone 75m NCS W3RCE	21 <i>Pilgrims Landed 1620</i>	22 CODE PRACTICE NET (W3RM)	23 SWAP NET	24	25 <i>Merry Christmas</i>	26
27 2m NCS NEEDED 10m NCS Anyone 75m NCS AK2I	28	29 CODE PRACTICE NET (W3RM)	30 SWAP NET	31 <i>Drive Safely!</i>		